

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01

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P 291115Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7505

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1071

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, FI

SUBJ: CSCE: FINNISH VIEWS AND TACTICS AS RESULT

CURRENT STANDSTILL

REF: GENEVA 3291

1. DURING DISCUSSION CURRENT STATUS OF PHASE II, CHIEF FINNISH FONOFF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (TUOVINEN), TOLD DCM TODAY THAT "FINNS WERE AS MUCH IN DARK" ABOUT CURRENT SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE ON CSCE AS OTHER WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA. TUOVINEN SAID THAT REPORTS FROM THE FINNISH DELEGATION IN GENEVA AND FROM FINNISH AMBASSADORS IN OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS CORRESPONDED GENERALLY WITH US READING THAT DCM PRESENTED ON BASIS OF REFTEL. DURING THE CONVERSATION, FINNISH AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM, MAX JACOBSEN, CALLED TO REPORT THAT SWEDES WERE EQUALLY PERPLEXED BY POSITION SOVIETS HAD ADOPTED AND THE QUESTIONABLE FUTURE OF CSCE.

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2. TUOVINEN SAID PRESIDENT KEKKONEN WAS GOING ON

FINNISH TV AND RADIO MAY 30 TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE THAT FINLAND ATTACHES TO CSCE AS A STARTING POINT FOR A NEW CONCEPT OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION AND THAT FINLAND WAS PREPARED TO RECEIVE CSCE PARTICIPANTS THIS SUMMER. (TUOVINEN HAS PROMISED TEXT OF STATEMENT AFTER PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAS APPROVED IT).

3. TUOVINEN SAID THAT FINNS AS HOSTS MUST MAINTAIN POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS CSCE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD PREPARATIONS FOR PHASE III. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT AS EACH DAY PASSES THE LIKELIHOOD OF PHASE III BEING HELD THIS SUMMER DIMINISHES. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS BEING DISCUSSED IN GENEVA FOR A POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF CSCE DELIBERATIONS. IF SUCH A POSTPONEMENT WERE NECESSARY, THE FINNS WOULD WANT THE HIATUS TO BE AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE SO THAT "CSCE SHOULD NOT LOSE ITS DYNAMICS".

4. COMMENT: AS FINNISH COORDINATOR OF ALL ASPECTS OF THINGS CSCE, TUOVINEN SHOULD BE PRIVY TO ANY EXPLANATION MOSCOW MAY BE GIVING FINNS CONCERNING SOVIETS' POSITION IN GENEVA. HE SAYS HE IS NOT. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN IS APPARENTLY GOING ON TV AND RADIO TO RESTORE SLIGHTLY TARNISHED IMAGE THAT CSCE IS ACQUIRING LOCALLY AS RESULT OF RECENT NEWSPAPER ITEMS REFERRING TO "IMPASSE AT GENEVA" AND EVEN QUESTIONING WHETHER CSCE "WILL EVER BE CONSUMATED". AT SAME TIME, PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S TALK IS UNDOUBTEDLY AIMED AT SOFTENING UP FINNISH PUBLIC FOR REALITY THAT CSCE MAY ADJOURN FOR THE SUMMER. KREHBIEL

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